

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NDJAME 00858 010913Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PA-01 INR-10 INRE-00
SSO-00 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 PM-05 L-03 /082 W
-----072483 010931Z /23
O 010815Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6452

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 0858

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE FROM AMBASSADOR BRADFORD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, PCAT, PINS, CD
SUBJECT: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD

SUMMARY: THE RESPITE GIVEN CHAD BY THE NEGOTIATIONS
IN PROGRESS, THE NEED OF THE PRO-WESTERN ELEMENTS WITHIN
THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT TO BUTTRESS THEIR POSITION, AND THE
FRENCH DECISION TO OFFER ASSISTANCE IN THE DEFENSE OF THE
SOUTH, COMBINE TO CREATE A SITUATION IN WHICH IT IS
IMPERATIVE THAT WE TAKE SOME DEFINITIVE ACTION IN REGARD
TO OUR COMMITMENT TO HELP CHAD MAINTAIN ITS TERRITORIAL
INTEGRITY. THERE STILL REMAINS A CHANCE THAT THE PRESENT
MODERATE GOVERNMENT (WITH SOME INTERNAL SHAKE-UP) CAN PULL
ITSELF TOGETHER, MAKE AN ARRANGEMENT FOR PARTICIPATION IN
THE GOVERNMENT OF SOME REBEL ELEMENTS, AND GRANT A FORM OF
AUTONOMY IN THE BORKOU, ENNEDI, TIBESTI AREA. THIS WOULD
LEAVE A RELATIVELY RESPONSIBLE, PRO-WESTERN GOVERNMENT IN
CONTROL OF THE PORTION OF THE COUNTRY WITH THE GREATEST
POPULATION (ABOUT 80 PERCENT) AND WITH THE GREATEST IMMEDIATE
POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT (AGRICULTURE, PETROLEUM, AND
URANIUM). A POSITIVE RESPONSE ON OUR PART NOW WOULD GREATLY
INCREASE THE LIKELIHOOD OF SUCH FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENTS.
HOWEVER, IF WE CANNOT BE OF ASSISTANCE, WE SHOULD SO INFORM
THE CHADIAN GOVERNMENT AS IT IS UNWISE AND UNFAIR TO KEEP
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NDJAME 00858 010913Z

DANGLING A FUTILE HOPE IN FRONT OF DESPERATE MEN. END SUMMARY

1. I CAN WELL UNDERSTAND EMBASSY TEHRAN'S RECOMMENDATION
(TEHRAN 7151 TO DEPARTMENT) THAT WE QUIT PRODDING THE
IRANIANS, BUT AS IT IS CLEAR NOTHING IS GOING TO HAPPEN NOW
IF MATTERS ARE LEFT ALONGE, THEN WE ARE IN EFFECT TELLING
THE CHADIANS THAT THE ONLY AVENUE OF APPROACH WHICH WE SAW

POSSIBLE FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE IS CLOSE; AT LEAST CLOSED FOR THE CRUCIAL PERIOD IN WHICH THEY MUST DETERMINE THEIR FUTURE. WE ARE LIKEWISE GIVING FUEL TO SADAT'S ARGUMENT THAT THE U.S. IS UNWILLING TO COUNTER SOVIET ENCROACHMENTS IN AFRICA.

2. AS CONDITIONS CHANGE SO RAPIDLY IN AFRICA, I WONDER IF THERE ARE ANY THIRD COUNTRIES, WHICH WE HAD EARLIER RULED IT AS POSSIBLE SOURCE FOR THE TRANSFER OF AMERICAN EQUIPMENT (ZAIRE, EGYPT, OR MOROCCO), BUT IT MIGHT BE WORTH A TRY.

" ONE-TIME GRANT OF SECURITY SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE REFERRED TO IN STATE 044069 WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT MOVE TO IMPROVE OUR SUPPORT FOR CHAD. AGAIN, I REALIZE IT WOULD NEITHER BE QUICK ENOUGH NOR LARGE ENOUGH TO REDRESS THE MILITARY BALANCE IN CHAD, BUT IT WOULD STRENGTHEN THE CHADIAN POSITION WITH LIBYA BY SHOWING OUR SUPPORT. IN THIS CONNECTION, I WISH TO UNDERLINE THAT CHAD WANTS A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. IT HAS BEEN BEATEN IN THE FIELD, FEARS FUTURE DEFEATS, AND REALLY WANTS TO ADDRESS ITSELF TO ITS DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS RATHER THAN INTERNAL SECURITY. HOWEVER, IT DOES NOT WISH TO BECOME A LIBYAN PAWN, NOR DOES ITS LARGE SOUTHERN ELEMENT WANT A MINORITY

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NDJAME 00858 010913Z

NORTHERN RULE. IN ADDITION, MEMBERS OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT ARE LESS THAN ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT COMMITTING POLITICAL, AND POSSIBLY PERSONAL, HARM.

4. COMMENT: ACCORDINGLY, I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT WE: (A) EXPLAIN THE URGENCY OF THE PRESENT SITUATION TO IRAN AND TRY TO ARRANGE FOR THE TRANSFER OF AT LEAST A TOKEN SHIPMENT FROM THE PRIORITY LIST GIVEN TO IRANIAN GOVERNMENT BY CHADIAN DELEGATION (TEHRAN 1801 PARA 4). THIS WOULD REASSURE CHADIANS THAT WE HAVE NOT BEEN LEADING THEM DOWN THE GARDEN PATH FOR THE LAST EIGHT MONTHS; (B) RE-OPEN THE QUESTION OF THIRD COUNTRY TRANSFERS WITH ANY OTHER POSSIBLE SOURCES, AND (C) PRESS, IF AT ALL FEASIBLE, FOR A ONE-TIME GRANT OF SECURITY SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE FOR CHAD. (IF WE FOLLOW THIS COURSE, CHADIAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE INFORMED AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE OF OUR INTENTION.) IF WE COULD ACHIEVE ANY POSITIVE RESULTS FROM ANY OF THESE THREE AREAS, WE COULD IN GOOD CONSCIENCE TELL CHADIANS (AND SADAT) WE HAD MET OUR COMMITMENT.

5. IF NONE OF THE FOREGOING ARE POSSIBLE, I RECOMMEND A FORMAL COMMUNICATION TO THE CHADIAN GOVERNMENT THAT WE HAVE

INVESTIGATED ALL POSSIBLE CHANNELS OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR CHAD AND NONE ARE FEASIBLE AT THIS TIME. ACCORDINGLY, IT SHOULD MAKE ITS IMMEDIATE DECISION ON THE BASIS OF RECEIVING NO U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE. PRESIDENT SADAT AND OTHERS WHO PUSHED FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE TO CHAD SHOULD PROBABLY BE SIMILARLY INFORMED.

6. I LEAVE DISTRIBUTION OF THIS TELEGRAM OUTSIDE OF THE DEPARTMENT TO WASHINGTON'S DISCRETION. BRADFORD

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, POLITICAL STABILITY, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NDJAME00858
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780093-0612
Format: TEL
From: NDJAMENA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803119/aaaadxpd.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 21b7d1ba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3154386
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD SUMMARY: THE RESPITE GIVEN CHAD BY THE NEGOTIATIONS IN PROGRESS, THE NEED OF THE PRO-WESTERN ELEMENTS
TAGS: MASS, PCAT, PINS, CD
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/21b7d1ba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014